

Newsletter

Spotlight on Safety

National Safety Council

May 2015

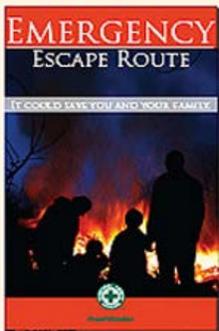


About the National Safety Council:



The National Safety Council saves lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the roads through leadership, research, education and advocacy. Visit us at nsc.org for up-to-date industry news, information and tools to take your safety program to the next level.

Featured Safety Poster:



Create, memorize and practice [Emergency Escape Routes](#) for both work and home.

Featured Webinar



Visit our [Online Learning](#)

Welcome to *Spotlight on Safety*, an e-newsletter brought to you by the Department of the Interior Office of Occupational Safety and Health in partnership with the National Safety Council. We hope you will find this service of value. Send feedback or ideas on topics you would like to see to membershipinfo@nsc.org. Please put "Department of the Interior feedback" in the subject line.

5-Minute Safety Talk: Disaster Drills



Practice and training will help improve workplace procedures for emergency preparedness. The best way to protect your workers and your business is to come up with a plan and train your employees.

Commitment and support from all employees is critical to the plan's success.

[This 5-minute Safety Talk](#) outlines some exercises that can help you improve your procedures through training and disaster drill evaluation.

Before Disaster Strikes

Would you know what to do if your workplace was threatened by a natural or man-made disaster? You might think you would have everything under control, but the truth is, most people can't think clearly in a crisis. Planning and practice are key.

Most businesses are [required by OSHA to have an emergency action plan](#). But no matter what the requirements, every company should have one, as emergency preparedness results in fewer injuries.

Worst-case Scenario

Both natural and man-made disasters can constitute a threat to the workplace. When dealing with fire, a bomb threat, workplace-violence event, gas leak or hazardous materials spill, it's best to evacuate. Threats that call for sheltering in place include external hazmat incidents and

[Library](#) to view our extensive webinar selection.

This month's suggested topic: **"Creating a Workplace Emergency Response Team"**

NSC Safety Awards



Employee engagement is key to a successful safety program! An award from the National Safety Council shows them you appreciate their efforts.

Safety awards from NSC instill employee pride; earn respect from your customers, community and peers; and place you one step ahead of your competition.

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[See the benefits that are available to you and ALL your employees](#)

weather events.

When [developing an emergency action plan](#), take some time to consider what might go wrong, including a worst-case scenario, and plan accordingly. The plan will depend on the size and location of the workplace, condition of the building, availability of outside resources, the type of materials on site and security, among other things.

According to OSHA, [fire is the most common type of emergency](#). Choosing to evacuate rather than attempting to fight a fire is the best way to minimize injuries and deaths, even if fire extinguishers are available.

What is an Emergency Action Plan?

OSHA Standards 29 CFR 1910.38 states that an action plan must include:

- [Procedures for reporting an emergency](#)
- [Procedures for emergency evacuation](#)
- [Procedures for employees who remain to run critical plant operations](#)
- [Procedures to account for all employees after an evacuation](#)
- Procedures for employees performing rescue or medical duties
- Contact information for employees who may need more information or an explanation of their duties under the emergency action plan

At least [one employee per shift also needs to have adequate training in first aid](#) if a clinic or hospital is farther than 3 or 4 minutes from the business.

Not required, but also important:

- An auxiliary power supply to the alarm or public address system that notifies employees of an emergency
- Identification of an alternate site for central communications in the event the primary workplace is uninhabitable
- A secure location to store original accounting, legal or employee documents

NSC offers this [emergency preparedness workplace plan you can fill out and use as a guide](#), and here is an [emergency action plan checklist from OSHA](#). NSC recommends posting the plan where every employee can read it.

Of course, having a plan is only the beginning. Employees need to be trained and practice the plan regularly.

Be Prepared at Home, Too

National Safety Council reminds employees that being prepared is important no matter where you are. [Here are some tips for emergency preparedness at home.](#)

Facts: The Type of Threat Will Determine Your Response

According to the [Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety](#), here are some of the threats faced by businesses, including a few you might not have thought about:

Natural: Earthquake, tornado, hurricane, flood, wildfire

Political: Sabotage, product tampering, workplace violence, extortion, embezzlement

Technological: Power outage, data corruption, HVAC failure, wiring and cables, software failure

Security: Privacy, virus, hackers, data theft, counterfeiters

Incidents: Human error, fire, water damage, building collapse, environmental contamination

Newer Threats: Pandemic, water shortage, mismanagement, globalization, product liability



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